

Message Text

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NOTE: DEPT PLEASE REPEAT INFO TO OTHER ADDRESSEES

AS REQUIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, MOPS, CA, CY, NATO

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER IN CYPRUS: POSSIBLE PULLOUT OF

CANADIAN FORCES FROM CYPRUS

REF: OTTAWA 3587

1. IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS DESPATCH DATELINED NICOSIA,
DEFENCE MINISTER RICHARDSON WAS QUOTED IN CANADIAN
NEWSPAPERS, NOVEMBER 4, AS TELLING REPORTERS OVER THE
WEEKEND THAT CANADA MIGHT WITHDRAW ITS CONTINGENT FROM
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THE UN PEACE FORCE IN CYPRUS IF THE TURKS CONTINUED

TO RESTRICT ITS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. (A CANADIAN
BORADCAST CORP, CBC, NEWSCAST QUOTED RICHARDSON AS
SAYING THE CONTINGENT WOULD BE CUT BY 200 MEN IN
DECEMBER PRESUMABLY FOR BUDGETARY REASONS).

2. ACCORDING TO THE AP DESPATCH FROM NICOSIA, RICHARDSON
TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE RAISED THE LACK OF FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE TURKISH
CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP AND SAID THIS WAS WHY CANADA
WITHDREW FROM THE VIETNAM TRUCE SUPERVISION OPERATION.

3. THE AP DESPATCH QUOTED RICHARDSON AS SAYING THAT
THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT WOULD "REMAIN HERE AS LONG AS
WE ARE USEFUL...BUT WE WILL NOT STAY INDEFINITELY...IF
THERE IS NO REAL EFFORT BY BOTH SIDES TO FIND A SETTLE-
MENT." RICHARDSON REPORTEDLY SAID THE UN PEACE FORCE
"HAS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE" IN
HELPING TO CREATE PROPER CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDES.

4. THE AP REPORTED THAT RICHARDSON'S "PERSONAL VIEW"
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL SYSTEM IN CYPRUS
"CAUSED SOME RAISED EYEBROWS AMONG GREEK CYPRIOT
REPORTERS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE." PORTER

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